



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Indictments handed down in Austin brothel case ***7 people indicted for allegedly operating a brothel in Austin***

AUSTIN, Texas — United States Attorney Johnny Sutton and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Alonzo Pena announced Wednesday that a federal grand jury in Austin indicted seven individuals for their roles in operating a brothel in Austin.

Those indicted include: Juan Balderas-Orosco, Bertha Jimenez, Francisco Castillo-Celaya, David Mendoza-Magana, Emilio Castillo-Celaya, Rafael Torres-Melchor, and Miguel Gomez.

The indictment charges the defendants with transportation for prostitution; coercion and enticement for prostitution; conspiracy to smuggle, transport and harbor illegal aliens; and importation of aliens for immoral purposes. The indictment alleges that the defendants began this prostitution ring as early as Nov. 13, 2002, and continued operating it until their arrests June 29, 2006.

ICE agents, in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), conducted an enforcement operation July 29, 2006, on brothels operating in Austin, Dallas and Oklahoma City. The brothels catered primarily to illegal aliens. Those arrested include Juan Balderas-Orosco, Francisco Castillo-Celaya and David Mendoza-Magana. The remaining indicted defendants are fugitives.

ICE and IRS-Criminal Investigation Division are investigating this case, with assistance from local law enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Carruth is prosecuting the case. An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.